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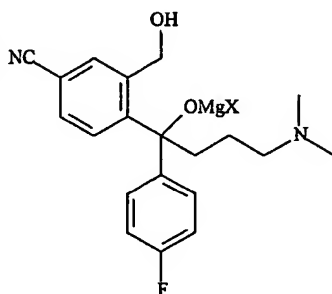
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(I)

(57) Abstract: A method for the preparation of citalopram and its pharmaceu-  
tically acceptable salts is described; it's obtained starting from 5-cyanophthalide  
by reaction with a mixture of 4fluorophenyl magnesium bromide and 3-dimethyl-  
aminopropyl magnesium chloride. The intermediate obtained is showed here-be-  
low: wherein X is an halogen, preferably chlorine or bromine, which is cyclized  
without any isolation.